



Montgomery County Council

From the Office of Councilmember Nancy Dacek

For Immediate Release

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Remarks by Councilmember Nancy Dacek at Upcounty Fire & Rescue September 11 Breakfast

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We are here today for a moment, and a day, of remembrance – and yet September 11, 2001, is a day that we will never forget.

None of us will forget exactly where we were when we heard the news. None of us will forget the thousands of people – ordinary people – who died that day. None of us will forget the hundreds of fire-rescue personnel and police officers who died that day just doing their duty. None of us will forget the huge flag -- a Montgomery County flag -- which was unfurled on the Pentagon.

I could go on and on. But how do we deal with our memories, some of which are so painful? I can't begin to tell you how to do that – each person will do that in his or her own way.

How do we really honor our heroes, our county, and our freedom? I remember being at the dedication of the new Sandy Spring fire station shortly after 9/11. After the flag was raised, I said that none of us would ever look at the American flag in quite the same way and I believe that is true. That flag has always stood for freedom.

President Bush said on that tragic day "We will not waiver; we will not tire; we will not falter; and we will not fail – peace and freedom will prevail." We are here today to celebrate the patriotic spirit of this great country that is sadly so often overlooked until tragedy brings it forth once again.

I do want to say something about you as fire-rescue personnel. Shakespeare once said "action is eloquence". The action of rescuers like you at the Pentagon and the World Trade Center – and the work you do day in and day out – speak
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louder than anything I could say. Abraham Lincoln said at Gettysburg, "The world will little note nor long remember what we say here but it will never forget what they did here."

I know that the people of Montgomery County can count on every man and woman in this room – as well as your comrades -- to do his or her duty. Yours is a constancy that goes on and on. As a county we feel secure that whatever difficulties lies ahead, we can count on your heart, your hands and your professionalism.

In closing, we must keep the principles of self-sacrifice, courage and solidarity that we saw on 9/11 alive. So often we forget, for instance, those days like Memorial Day that honor our brothers and sisters who gave their lives in our nation's wars. We must not forget. We must be vigilant against those who try to steal the precious gift of freedom that our forefathers afforded us years ago.

Franklin Roosevelt said, "We, too, born to freedom and believing in freedom, are willing to fight for freedom." We are lucky to live in the greatest country in the world. Thank you.

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